Act 52
The Starry Sky, and a Flash

DID THEY... STOP?

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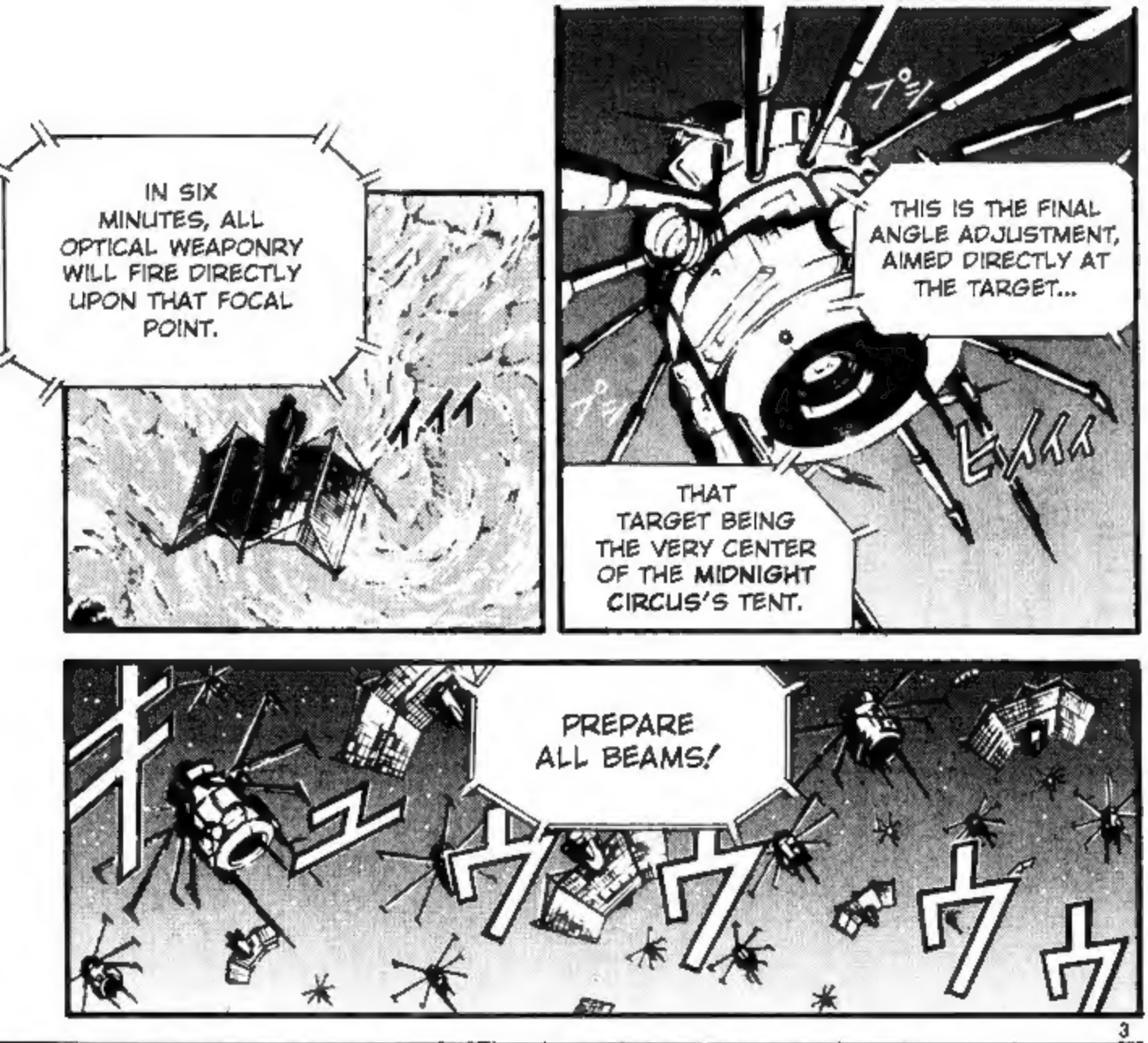
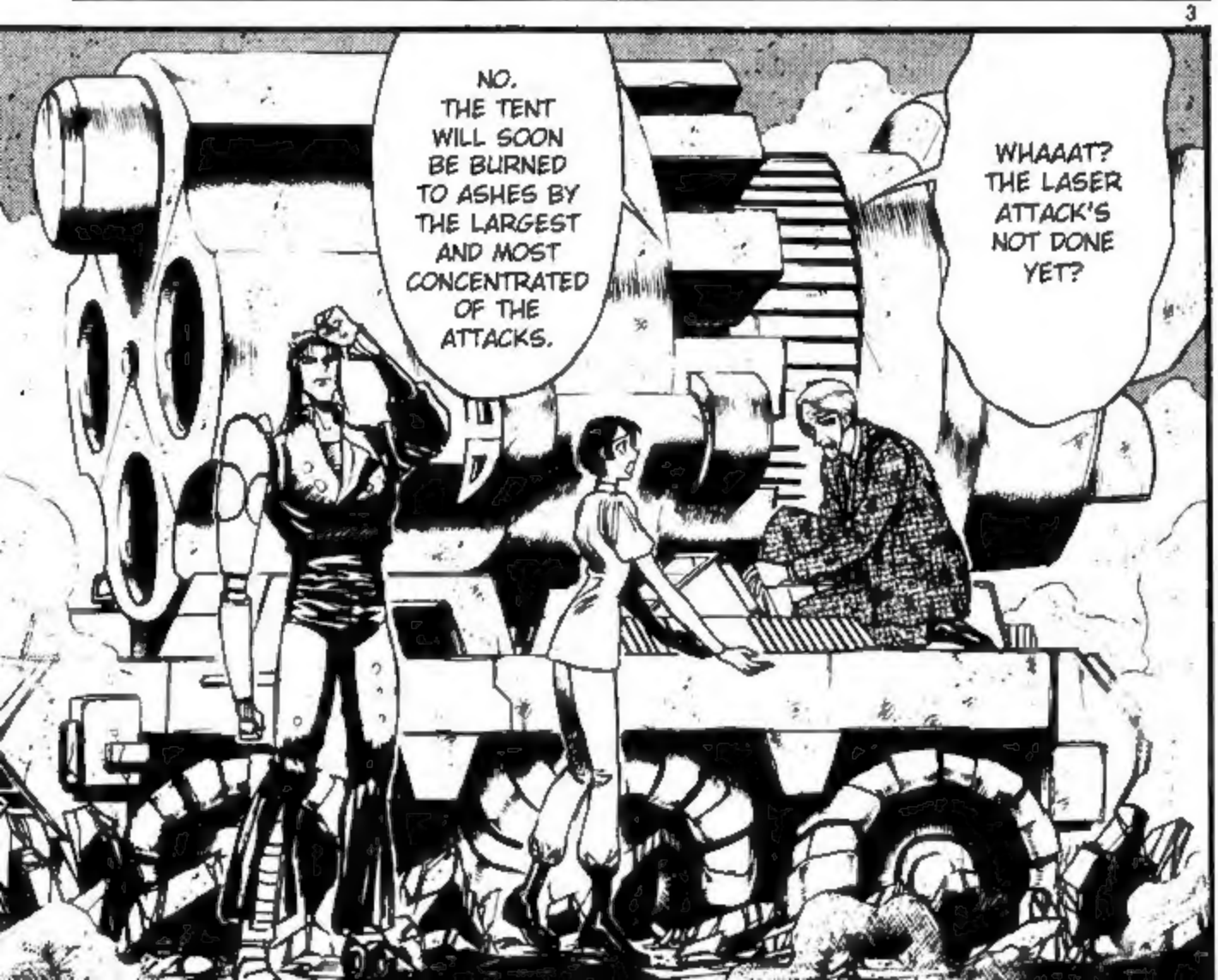
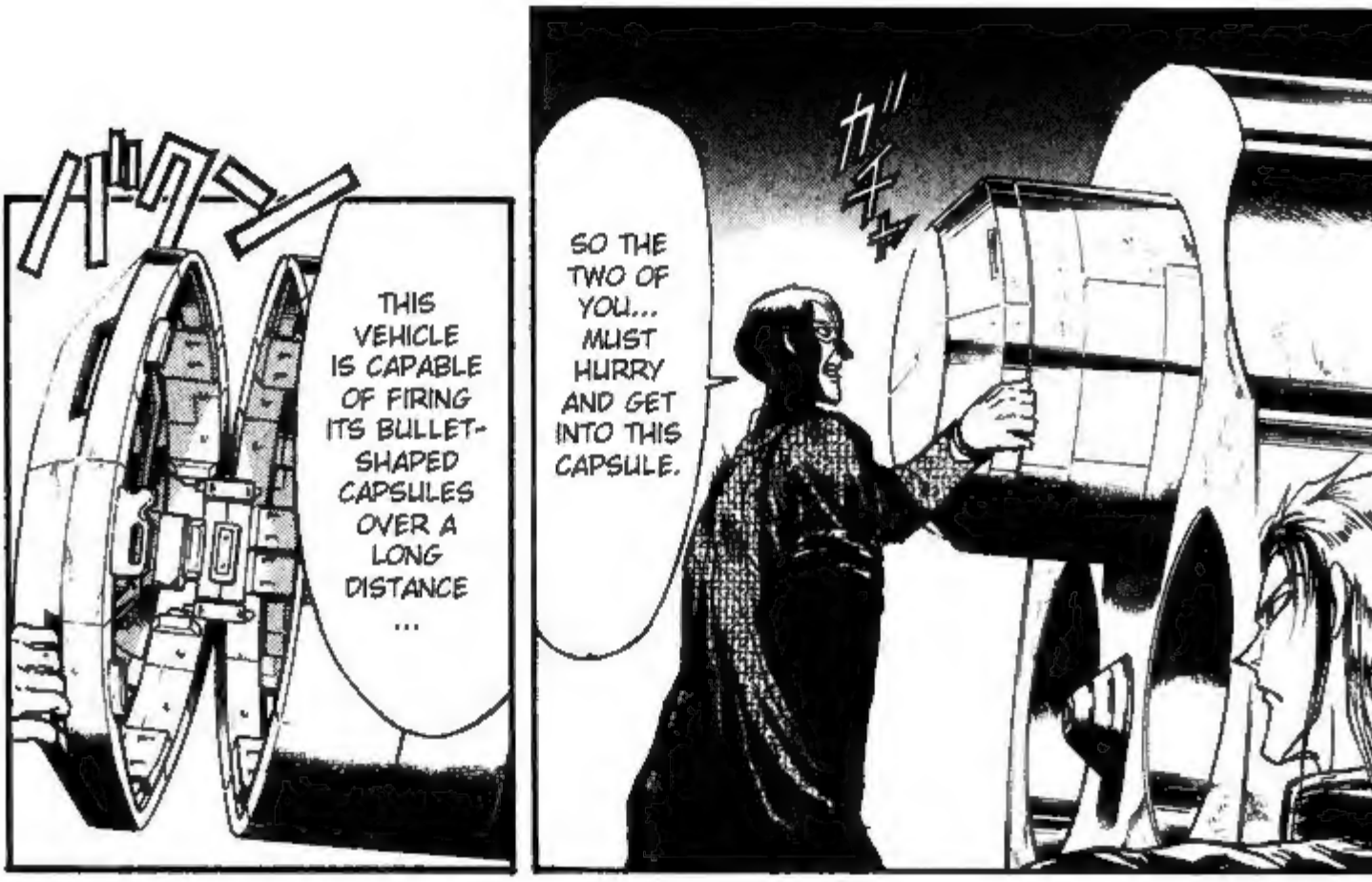
MOVING NOW INTO A COOLDOWN PERIOD AS WE RECHARGE.
TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING THE LASER SWEEP.
ZZZZ


IN SIX MINUTES, ALL OPTICAL WEAPONRY WILL FIRE DIRECTLY UPON THAT FOCAL POINT.
THIS IS THE FINAL ANGLE ADJUSTMENT, AIMED DIRECTLY AT THE TARGET...
THAT TARGET BEING THE VERY CENTER OF THE MIDNIGHT CIRCUS'S TENT.
PREPARE ALL BEAMS!


NO. THE TENT WILL SOON BE BURNED TO ASHES BY THE LARGEST AND MOST CONCENTRATED OF THE ATTACKS.
WHAAAT? THE LASER ATTACK'S NOT DONE YET?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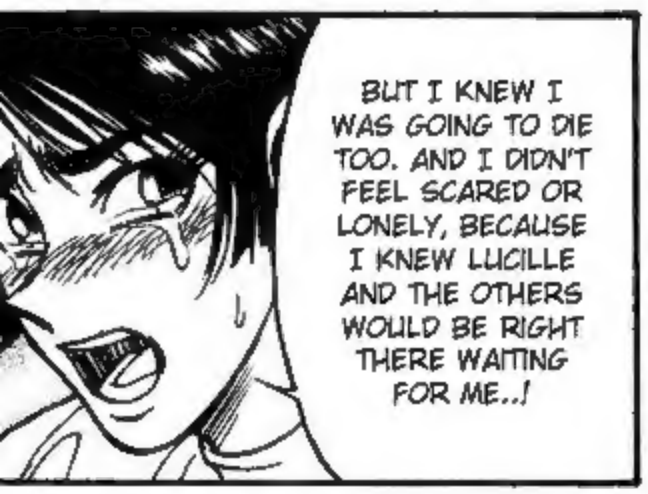
THIS VEHICLE IS CAPABLE OF FIRING ITS BULLET-SHAPED CAPSULES OVER A LONG DISTANCE ...
カチャ
SO THE TWO OF YOU... MUST HURRY AND GET INTO THIS CAPSULE.

ROCK-ENFIELD ...
HEY, UM ...
HURRY... I'LL TAKE CARE OF PROGRAMMING THE LAUNCH.

MING-XIA, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
ナニ?!

DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK I'M GONNA AGREE TO THAT?!

THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE TOO, DON'T THEY?!
AND THEN THAT SHIROGANE-O, AND THAT GUY WHO LOOKS LIKE A YAKUZA!
I'M GOING TO GO GET FATIMA!


BUT I KNEW I WAS GOING TO DIE TOO. AND I DIDN'T FEEL SCARED OR LONELY, BECAUSE I KNEW LUCILLE AND THE OTHERS WOULD BE RIGHT THERE WAITING FOR ME..!

IT WAS SO HARD WATCHING EVERYBODY DIE... IT HURT SO MUCH...!
MING-XIA...

AND NOW WE KNOW THERE IS A WAY TO GET OUT OF HERE! TELL ME, ROCKENFIELD...!

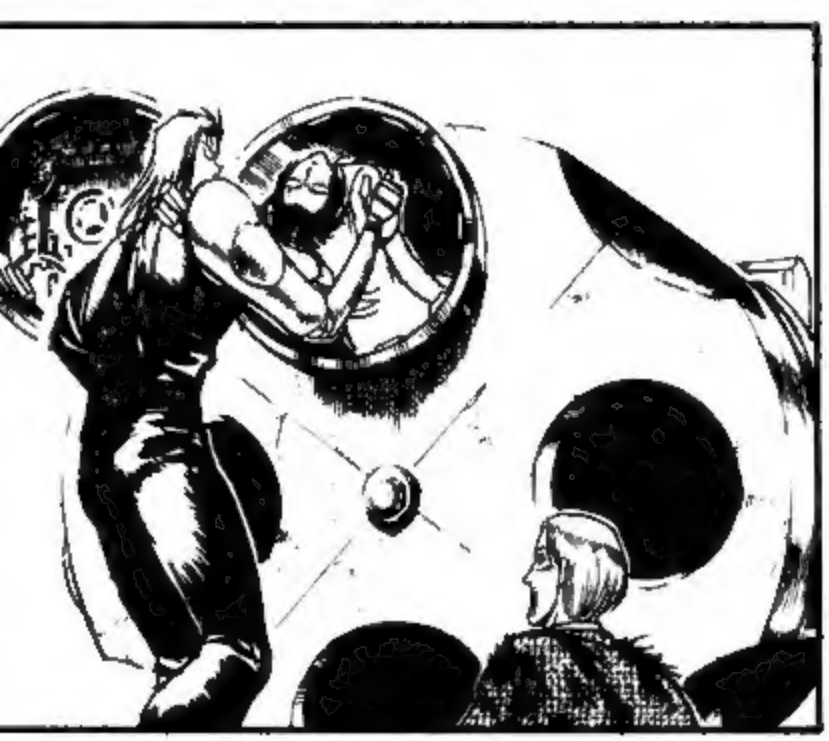
WHY SHOULD THE TWO OF US BE THE ONLY ONES TO LIVE?!

NOT TOR, NOT DAHL, NOT ANY OF THEM!
BUT IF THERE'S A WAY TO ESCAPE, THEN THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE DIED AFTER ALL!

FATIMA'S GONE.
WHAT IS IT ?!
MING-HAI, YOU HAVE TO TALK WITH FATIMA! YOU OWE HER SO MUCH!
SO...
FATIMA... IS PAST SAVING.
WHA ...

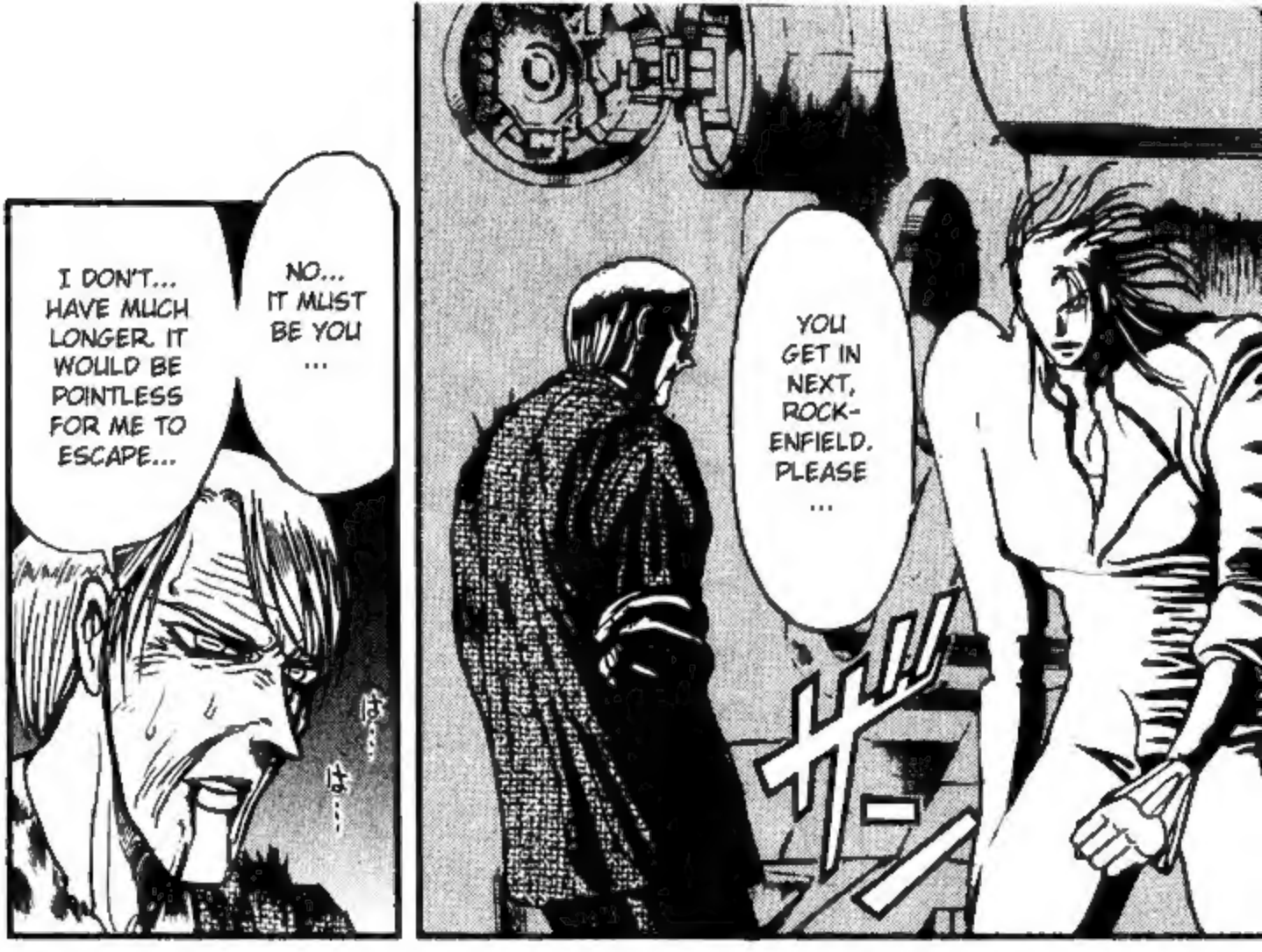
WHAT ARE YOU ...
MING-HAI, WHAT ...
BIG SIS.
YOU'VE GOT TO BE THE FIRST ONE IN THE CAPSULE ...

I...
DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE, ON TOP OF EVERYONE ELSE.



SORRY ...

NOW...
.....


I DON'T... HAVE MUCH LONGER. IT WOULD BE POINTLESS FOR ME TO ESCAPE...
NO... IT MUST BE YOU ...
YOU GET IN NEXT, ROCK-ENFIELD. PLEASE ...
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RICHIE, MY YOUNGER SON, IS GOING TO BE IN A SCHOOL PLAY SOON ...
NO, IT WOULD-N'T!
YOU HAVE A PROMISE TO KEEP!

NO... I DO NOT...
.....
YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS RICHIE'S PLAY, DO YOU?!

LET GO OF ME, NARUMI!

SO GET IN!

ALL OF IT! OUR ENTIRE FIGHT!
THIS WAS ALL POINTLESS, ROCKEN-FIELD!

SO... SO YOU AT LEAST HAVE TO ...

AFTER EVERYBODY DIED SO I COULD DO IT...!

THE FRANCINE THAT I DESTROYED WAS A FAKE.

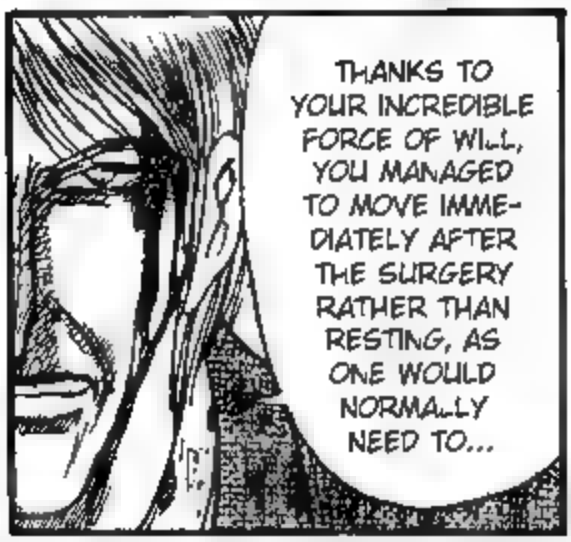
I AM A DOLL BUILT BY LADY FRANCINE.

GET BACK TO YOUR KIDS ...

YOUR NERVES HAVE... FINALLY GIVEN OUT...
WH-WHY IS THIS ...

MY BODY ...
SFX: CREAKING

I... CAN'T MOVE ...
WHA- ...?!


THANKS TO YOUR INCREDIBLE FORCE OF WILL, YOU MANAGED TO MOVE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SURGERY RATHER THAN RESTING, AS ONE WOULD NORMALLY NEED TO...

WH-...
THOSE LIMBS ARE VERY PRECISE PIECES OF MACHINERY. THEY WERE CONNECTED TO YOUR NERVES DURING THAT COMPLICATED SURGERY ...

DON'T WORRY. YOU WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE AGAIN ONCE YOU REST.
BUT NOT FOR THE MOMENT.

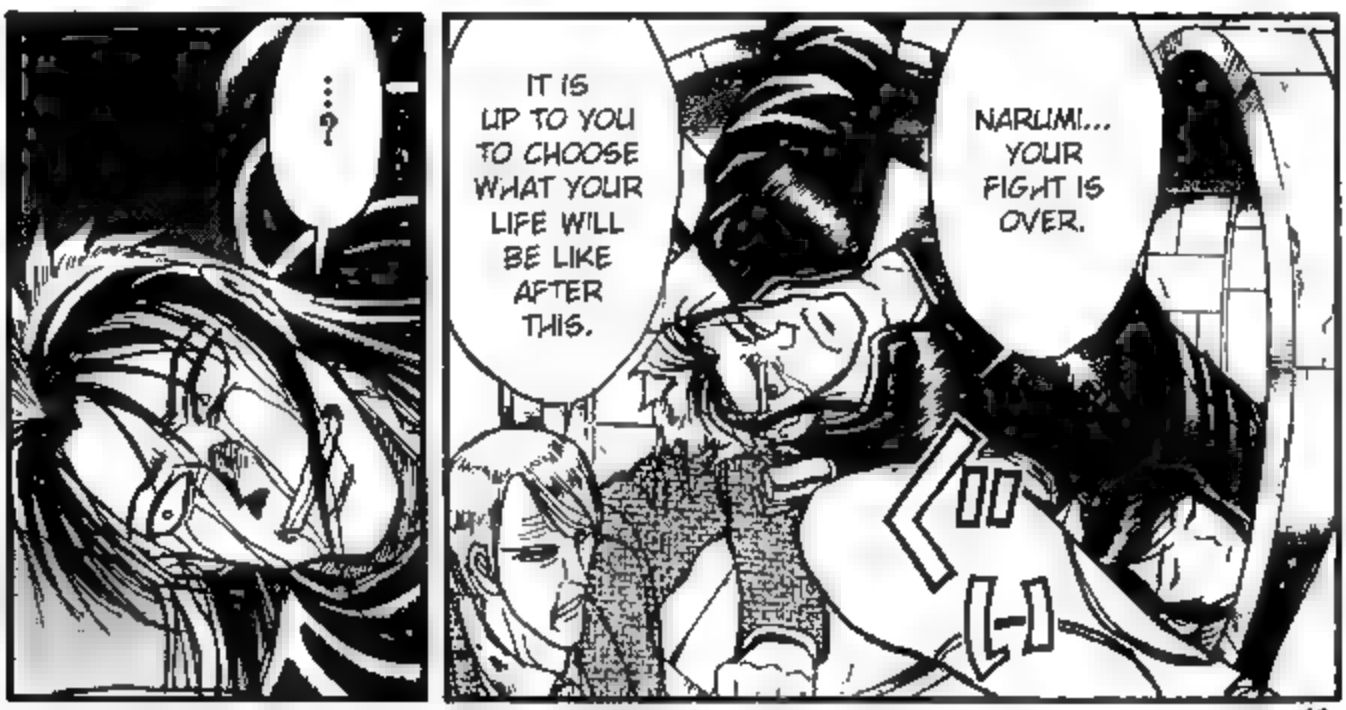
BY THIS POINT ...
THE BODY PARTS THAT YOU FORCED TO MOVE FAR PAST THEIR LIMIT MUST BE UTTERLY EXHAUSTED.

NO! ROCKENFIELD, DON'T DO THIS!! YOU CAN'T!

I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LISTEN TO ME.
AND SO...

THIS IS JUST THE SORT OF TIME ...
WHEN I DON'T NEED TO GIVE A REASON. ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
I... DO NOT WANT YOU TO DIE.
WHY? WHY WON'T YOU GET OUT OF HERE YOURSELF ?!
YOU'VE GOT A FAMILY TO GO BACK HOME TO ...!
BUT YOU ...!
I DON'T HAVE ANYBODY WAITING FOR ME ...
ROCK-ENFIELD ...
PLEASE ...
PLEASE GO TO SEE RICHIE'S PLAY...!!

MY DEAR CHILDREN, YOU MEAN ...
SEE ...
.....


...?
IT IS UP TO YOU TO CHOOSE WHAT YOUR LIFE WILL BE LIKE AFTER THIS.
NARUMI... YOUR FIGHT IS OVER.

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ROCK-ENFIELD ...?
LIVE FREELY.
THERE IS NO MORE REASON FOR YOU TO FEEL BEHOLDEN TO THIS FIGHT. NONE AT ALL.

YOU ARE FREE NOW.

THEY ARE ...
TWO WONDERFUL, ENERGETIC BOYS.

ROCKEN-FIELD...! THAT DOLL I DES-TROYED WAS... IT WAS ...!
IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE, WOULD YOU MIND LOOKING UP RICHIE AND AL IN OXFORD ...?

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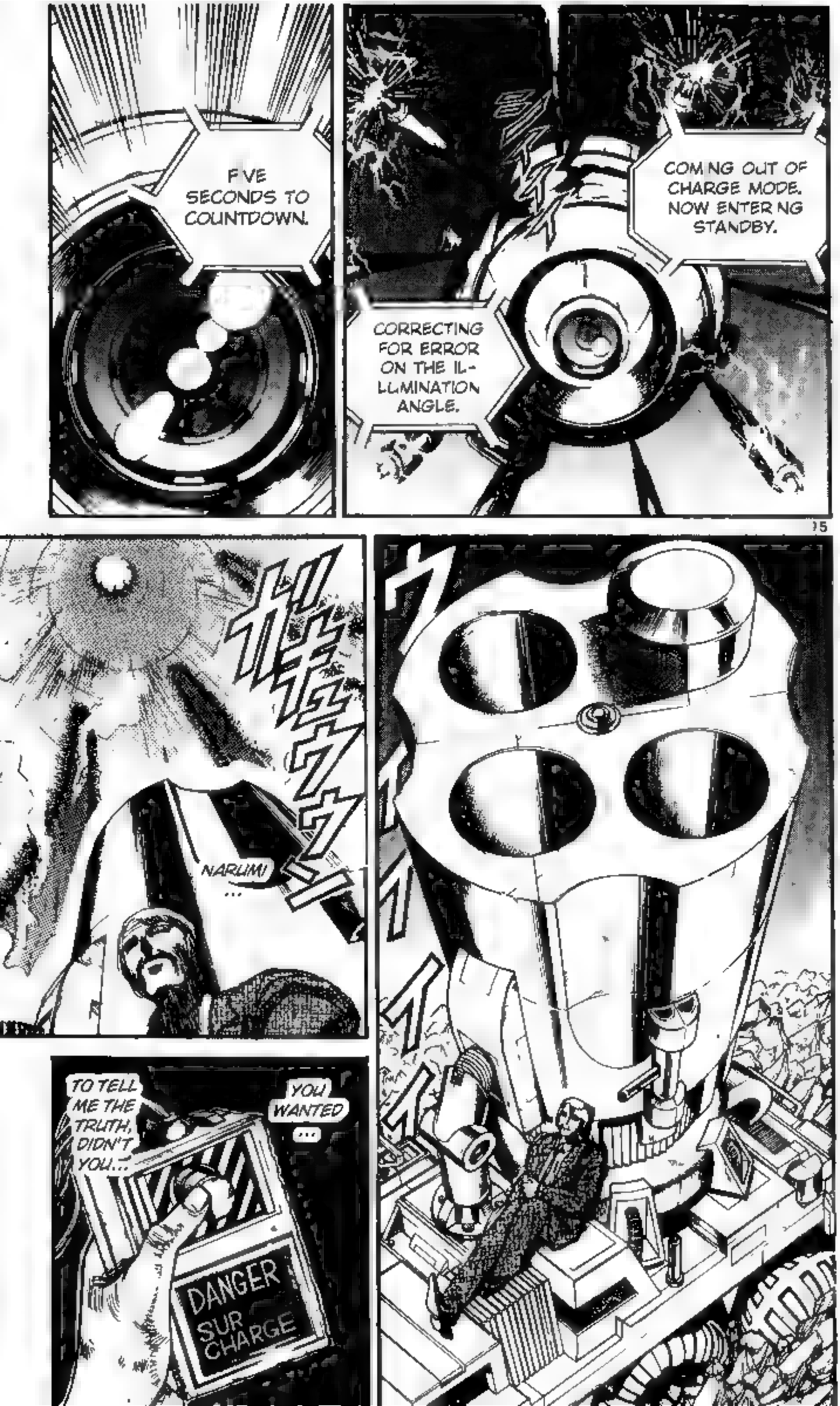
SFX: THUNK


FIVE SECONDS TO COUNTDOWN.
COMING OUT OF CHARGE MODE. NOW ENTERING STANDBY.
CORRECTING FOR ERROR ON THE ILLUMINATION ANGLE.
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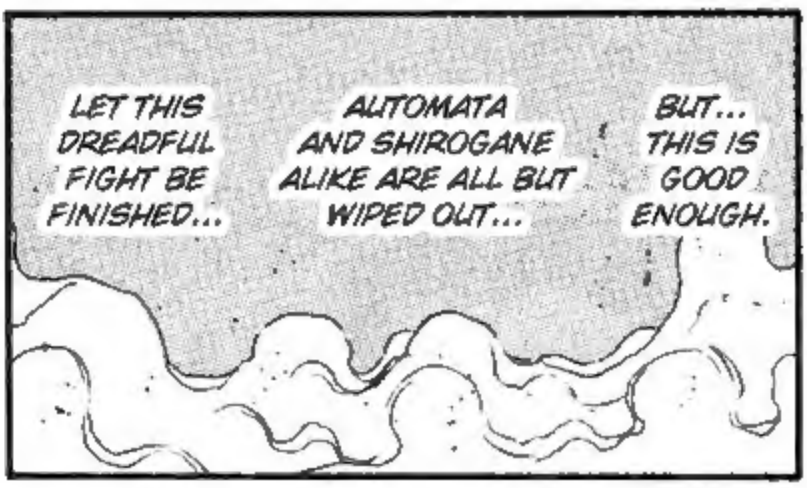
NARUMI ...
TO TELL ME THE TRUTH, DIDN'T YOU...
YOU WANTED ...
DANGER SUR CHARGE

THE MOMENT I SAW YOUR FACE, I KNEW...
I LIED WHEN I SAID THAT MY EYE-SIGHT WAS FADING.
THERE IS NO NEED.

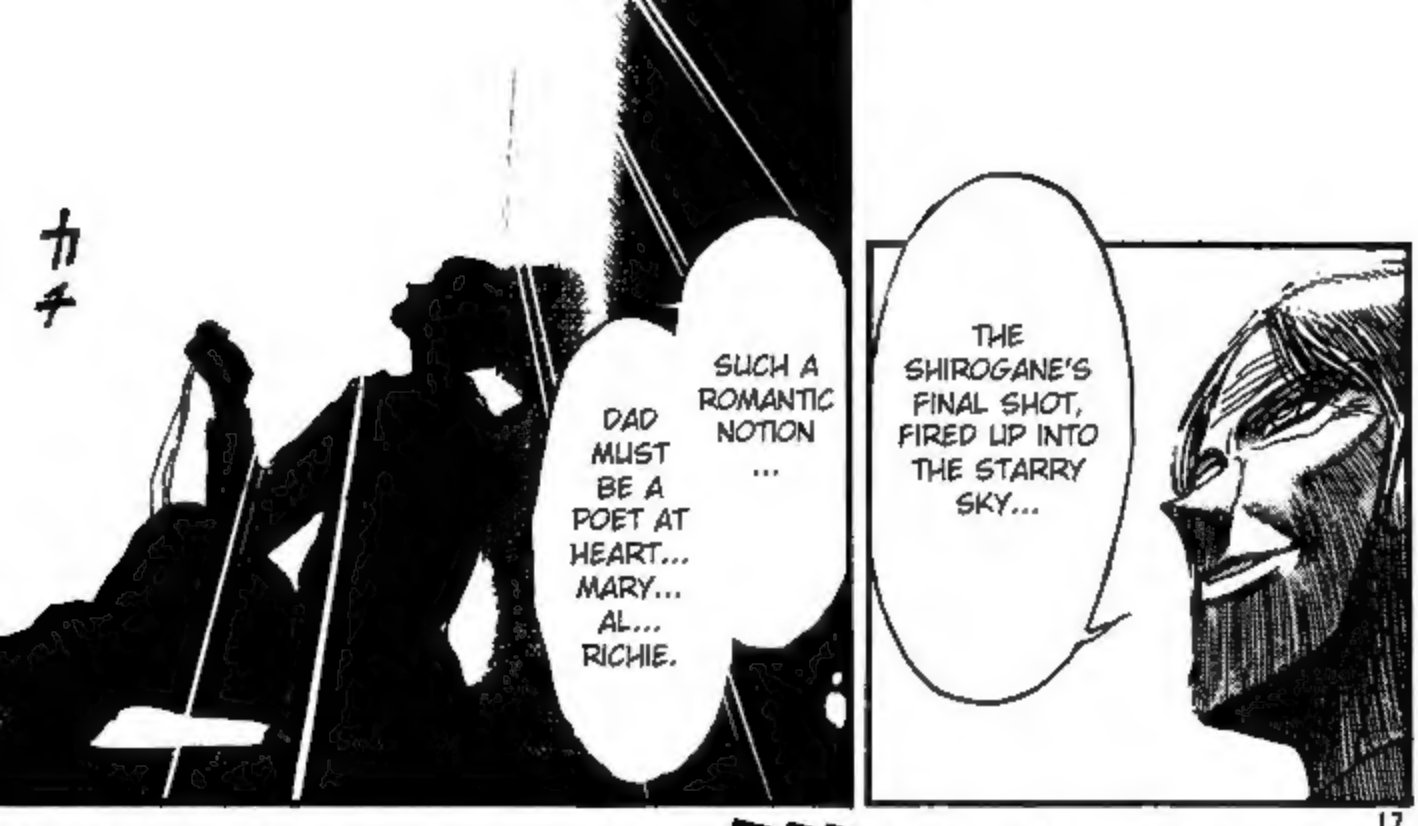

LET THIS DREADFUL FIGHT BE FINISHED...
AUTOMATA AND SHIROGANE ALIKE ARE ALL BUT WIPED OUT...
BUT... THIS IS GOOD ENOUGH.

HAD NOT BEEN DESTROYED.
I KNEW THAT THE REAL DOLL FRANCINE ...

FIRE ALL LASERS!
YOU, THE SOLE SURVIVOR, CANNOT, SHOULDER RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL OF THIS ALONE.

A STARRY SKY...

I WANT TO LEAVE YOU BURDENED WITH NOTHING.
SO I WILL REMAIN IGNORANT.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DAD MUST BE A POET AT HEART... MARY... AL... RICHIE.
SUCH A ROMANTIC NOTION ...
THE SHIROGANE'S FINAL SHOT, FIRED UP INTO THE STARRY SKY...

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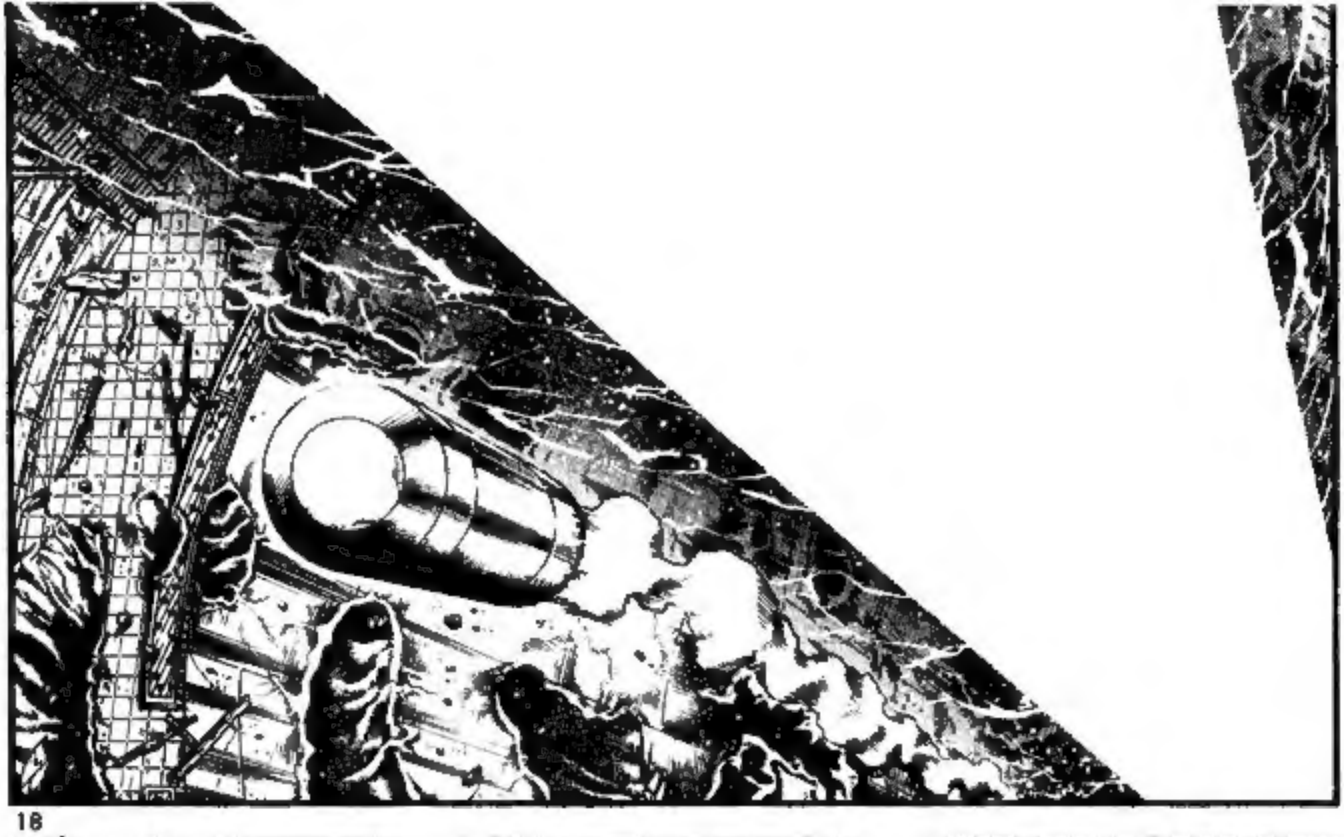

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translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

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Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.